

Gordon McMullen

Bozeman, MT

Deceased

Medium: Wood

About the Artist:

When nominated as an 83-year old, Bozeman resident Gordon McMullen had worked with wood since he was nine years old. He inherited both his first woodworking tools and his love of wood from his grandfather who was an English cabinetmaker. That love of wood, in addition to the tools, were passed on to McMullen's grandson who is a designer at Black Diamond in Utah. Since his endorsement by the Arts Council, McMullen is now deceased.

McMullen graduated from Gallatin County High School and continued his education at the University of Montana, Oregon State University and Montana State University with the plans to become an industrial arts teacher. However, after he met and married his wife Barbara, he began working as a plumber and mechanic to support the family, which eventually grew to include seven children.

About the Art:

In 1989 McMullen retired from the world of plumbing and decided to pursue his dream to become a full-time wood-turner. Because he knew so much about the mechanics of machinery, he designed, built and perfected a lathe that could turn large bowls. In his work with wood, he created 1000's of bowls, some of which he sold both within and outside of the boundaries of Montana.

McMullen was a member of the American Association of Wood turners and served as an active mentor in the Northern Rockies Woodworking Guild. He placed an emphasis on mentoring and sharing his techniques one or two days a week with the Bozeman High School students and also mentored Francesco Gilla an Italian shoe and skateboard designer who resides in Bozeman.

Photography supplied by Jess Tode and Barbara McMullen